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handled by designated officials identified in bureau/office procedures.

§ 12.905 Subawards.

Unless sections of this subpart specifically exclude subrecipients from coverage, the provisions of this subpart shall be applied to subrecipients performing work under awards if such subrecipients are institutions of higher education, hospitals, or other non-profit organizations. State and local government subrecipients are subject to the provisions of regulations implementing the grants management common rule, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," 43 CFR part 12.

PRE-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

§ 12.910 Purpose.

Sections 12.011 through 12.917 prescribe forms and instructions and other pre-award matters to be used in applying for Federal awards.

§ 12.911 Pre-award policies.

(a) *Use of Grants and Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts.* In each instance, the Federal awarding agency shall decide on the appropriate award instrument (i.e., grant, cooperative agreement, or contract). The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (31 U.S.C. 6301-6308) governs the use of grants, cooperative agreements and contracts. A grant or cooperative agreement shall be used only when the principal purpose of a transaction is to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute. The statutory criterion for choosing between grants and cooperative agreements is that for the latter, "substantial involvement is expected between the executive agency and the State, local government, or other recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated in the agreement." Contracts shall be used when the principal purpose is acquisition of property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

(b) *Public Notice and Priority Setting.* Federal awarding agencies shall notify the public of their funding priorities for discretionary grant programs, un-

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less funding priorities are established by Federal statute.

§ 12.912 Forms for applying for Federal assistance.

(a) Federal awarding agencies shall comply with the applicable report clearance requirements of 5 CFR part 1320, "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," with regard to all forms used by the Federal awarding agency in place of or as a supplement to the Standard Form 424 (SF-424) series.

(b) Applicants shall use the SF-424 series or those forms and instructions prescribed by the Federal awarding agency.

(c) For Federal programs covered by E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," the applicant shall complete the appropriate sections of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) indicating whether the application was subject to review by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The name and address of the SPOC for a particular State can be obtained from the Federal awarding agency or the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*. The SPOC shall advise the applicant whether the program for which application is made has been selected by that State for review. (See also 43 CFR part 9).

(d) Federal awarding agencies that do not use the SF-424 form will indicate whether the application is subject to review by the State under E.O. 12372.

§ 12.914 Special award conditions.

(a) Federal awarding agencies may impose additional requirements as needed, if an applicant or recipient:

- (1) Has a history of poor performance;
- (2) Is not financially stable;
- (3) Has a management system that does not meet the standards prescribed in this part;
- (4) Has not conformed to the terms and conditions of a previous award; or
- (5) Is not otherwise responsible.

(b) Additional requirements may only be imposed provided that the applicant or recipient is notified in writing as to:

- (1) The nature of the additional requirements;

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(2) The reason why the additional requirements are being imposed;

(3) The nature of the corrective action needed;

(4) The time allowed for completing the corrective actions; and

(5) The method for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements imposed.

(c) Any special conditions shall be promptly removed once the conditions that prompted them have been corrected.

§ 12.915 Metric system of measurement.

The Metric Conversion Act, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (15 U.S.C. 205) declares that the metric system is the preferred measurement system for U.S. trade and commerce. The Act requires each Federal agency to establish a date or dates in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce when the metric system of measurement will be used in the agency's procurements, grants, and other business-related activities. Metric implementation may take longer where the use of the system is initially impractical or likely to cause significant inefficiencies in the accomplishment of Federally-funded activities. Federal awarding agencies will follow the provisions of E.O. 12770, "Metric usage in Federal Government Programs." When applicable, the awarding agency shall request that measurement-sensitive information to be included as part of the application, be expressed in metric units. When required by the awarding agency, for grants to recipients, the following term and condition will be incorporated into the grant:

PROVISION

All progress and final reports, other reports, or

All progress and final reports, other reports, or publications produced under this award shall employ the metric system of measurements to the maximum extent practicable. Both metric and inch-pound units (dual units) may be used if necessary during any transition period(s). However, the recipient may use non-metric measurements to the extent that the recipient has supporting documentation that the use of metric measurements is impracticable or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of

markets to the recipient, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in non-metric units.

(End of provision)

§ 12.916 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Pub. L. 94-580 codified at 42 U.S.C. 6962).

Under the Act, any State agency or agency of a political subdivision of a State that is using appropriated Federal funds must comply with section 6002 of RCRA. Section 6002 of RCRA requires that preference be given in procurement programs to the purchase of specific products containing recycled materials identified in guidelines developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR parts 247-254). Accordingly, State and local institutions of higher education and hospitals that receive direct Federal awards or other Federal funds shall give preference in their procurement programs funded with Federal funds to the purchase of recycled products pursuant to the EPA guidelines.

§ 12.917 Certifications and representations.

Unless prohibited by statute or codified regulation, each Federal awarding agency is authorized and encouraged to allow recipients to submit certifications and representations required by statute, executive order, or regulation on an annual basis, if the recipients have ongoing and continuing relationships with the agency. Annual certifications and representations shall be signed by responsible officials with the authority to ensure recipients' compliance with the pertinent requirements.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Financial and Program Management

§ 12.920 Purpose of financial and program management.

Sections 12.921 through 12.928 prescribe standards for financial management systems, methods for making payments and rules for: satisfying cost sharing and matching requirements, accounting for program income, budget revision approvals, making audits, determining allowability of cost, and establishing fund availability.